



Office of Secretary of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

Daily Media Watch

2 September 2010

CURRENT

[Is the Obama Administration Guilty of a War Crime?](#) – The Huffington Post (Blog)

On Saturday, the New York Times reported that administration officials are "alarmed" by the military commission case of Omar Khadr, the Canadian citizen seized as a 15-year-old by U.S. forces in Afghanistan who's now spent a third of his life in the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay. Trying an alleged child Soldier based largely on confessions he made after being threatened with gang-rape and murder is not the case the Obama administration had hoped to showcase in its first military commission trial.

[US Profile on Human Rights Grows at the United Nations](#) – The Nation

The Obama administration, emerging as a strong voice on international human rights issues within the UN, has submitted its first appraisal of the US's own human rights record, admitting to gaps in social and economic areas, pledging to push ratification of international rights conventions that have lingered in limbo in Washington and recognizing that the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people have become a defining issue of the era. In this article, the Department of Justice's report on reducing rapes in its prisons is mentioned.

[Leaders gather for sexual assault prevention seminar](#) – Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

The Pentagon recorded a total of 3,230 incidents of sexual assault in fiscal year 2009. However, the number is not precise because the Pentagon estimates that only 20 percent of victims report the crimes. To help lower this number, Marine and civilian leaders from Marine Corps Installations West discussed their junior Marines' well-being during a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Seminar here Aug. 19.

PREVIOUS

[Former Navy chief pleads guilty to lewdness with child](#) – The Lahontan Valley News

A former Navy chief on active duty at Naval Air Station Fallon initially charged for sexual assault and lewdness pleaded guilty to a lesser charge on Tuesday in District Court. Joseph Eugene Kumanchik, 32, of Turlock, Calif., agreed to a plea deal for one count of attempt to commit lewdness on a child under 14, a charge punishable by two to 20 years in prison. He will be sentenced Nov. 23. Kumanchik will be required to register as a sex offender and possibly be under supervision.

[Surviving Sexual Assault](#) – Army News

First Sgt. Angela Isles hated the military for a long time. She was angry, bitter and scared because of a dark secret she tried to bury when she was an 18-year-old and in the Air Force—a secret that destroyed her life and ultimately drove her to join the Army, and make a rank she could use to protect other young Service members. Thirty years ago, Isles was 17 and an airplane mechanic was raped by a Non-commissioned Officer who came to her off-base apartment.

Air Force: Sergeant may have exposed others to HIV – Associated Press

The military has arrested an Air Force sergeant and accused him of having unprotected sex with partners he met at "swinger" parties in central Kansas even though he knew he was HIV positive, according to a military affidavit. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations said Tuesday the man has not been charged but was ordered into pretrial confinement at a military jail on McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita by his commander while the investigation continues. The 43-year-old Airman was arrested on Aug. 9.

Bond revoked for Soldier charged with Seven Springs assault – Temple Daily Telegram

President Judge John M. Cascio revoked the bond of a Soldier charged with sexually assaulting a woman on Dec. 12, 2008, at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Bassett, 38, an Army recruiter, was remanded to Somerset County Jail Monday pending the disposition of the case. Bassett was brought before Cascio on a bench warrant for failing to appear in court on July 12. According to the District Attorney, Bassett has been uncooperative.

Detective's investigation credited for arrest – The Gazette-Enterprise

The tenacity of a detective who wouldn't quit a sexual assault investigation when his suspect moved 2,000 miles away is being credited with helping authorities unravel a series of alleged sexual assaults of children and has led to the arrest on capital murder charges in the 2005 death of a five-month old infant. Former Universal City resident Joseph Allsop, 27, was taken into custody last week by military investigators at Fort Lewis, Washington on a capital murder warrant out of Copperas Cove, Texas.

Air Force Sergeant Expose Partners to HIV at Wichita Area Parties – Fox News

A Sergeant stationed at McConnell Air Force Base has been arrested on suspicion of exposing sex partners to HIV by having unprotected sex with people he met at "swinger" parties around Wichita. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations said Friday the man has not been charged but was ordered into a military jail at the base. The 43-year-old Airman was arrested Aug. 9 and faces a September military hearing.

US Wary of Example Set By Tribunal – New York Times

After working for a year to redeem the international reputation of military commissions, Obama administration officials are alarmed by the first case to go to trial under revamped rules: the prosecution of a former child Soldier whom an American interrogator implicitly threatened with gang rape. Senior officials say his trial is undermining their broader effort to showcase reforms that they say have made military commissions fair and just.

Report: 90,000 inmates sexually victimized – Salon

The government reported Thursday that 4.4 percent of inmates in prison and 3.1 percent of inmates in jail report being victimized sexually by another inmate or staff member in the past year. Those percentages translate to the sexual victimization of 88,500 inmates behind bars nationwide from October 2008 to December 2009, according to a study by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics. The report includes reference to victims of sexual assault held in military prisons.

Similar story in: **Gov. Brewer blasts Obama-Clinton UN report** – The Washington Examiner